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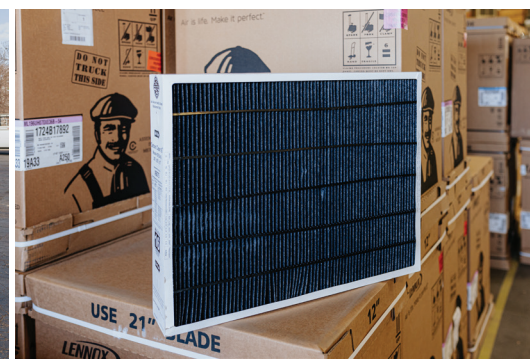
atHome

Spring Maintenance Tips to Extend the Efficiency of Your HVAC System

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MARKETING FEATURE



COVERPROFILE

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By Sarah Huber
 At Home Colorado
Photos by Natalie Dyer

For more 30 years, Northern Colorado Air, Inc. has raised the standard of comfort throughout the Front Range with expert services in both residential and commercial heating and cooling installation, maintenance and repair.

A family-owned business, Northern Colorado Air has a well-earned reputation from Fort Collins to Longmont, Windsor and Loveland. In fact, the majority of Northern Colorado Air's calls are from repeat customers who value Northern Colorado Air's commitment to excellence, as well as referrals, said general manager Jeff Richard. "Our neighbors know our reputation for a quality service at a fair price, and they've come to know and trust our employees." Several Northern Colorado Air professional technicians have been with the company for 20-plus years.

"When you stick with the professionals, you know you are getting a company that has been trusted for 32 years for reliability," Richard said. Northern Colorado Air is an independent business not affiliated with any other HVAC (heating, ventilation and air conditioning) company in Colorado. "We continue to build lasting relationships with our residential and commercial customers through organized project management, affordable service and greater value for your investment," Richard said. Northern Colorado Air's specialized team is trained to accurately diagnose and resolve issues with air quality and temperature control for existing residential and commercial structures and new construction projects.

New laws owners of old AC units need to know

Not only does Northern Colorado Air help homeowners install and maintain HVAC systems, but they also educate customers on their

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options before a sale and how a system works once in place. This year, with new laws on refrigerants in air conditioning units taking effect on Jan. 1, 2025, Northern Colorado Air is encouraging those with older AC units to start doing their homework. As the refrigerant required by the new law is projected to bring additional costs to units replaced after 2024, some homeowners are partnering with Northern Colorado Air now to see what best fits their lifestyle and cooling needs.

Spring tune-ups at reasonable a price

For those with newer systems, Northern Colorado Air is available to help homeowners extend the life and efficiency of their HVAC systems. "If you take care of your air conditioning units, it will work longer and better for you," said Richard.

He noted that units in Colorado are susceptible to hail damage as well as buildup from blowing soil and leaves. "These pack the condenser," he explained. "It's like putting cardboard on your radiator and driving around in the summer. Your car will overheat. This is bad in the same way for your AC unit."

Some of the maintenance services performed by Northern Colorado Air technicians include:

- Checking the thermostat calibration and settings
- Tightening electrical connections
- Lubricating all moving parts



Jeff Richard of Northern Colorado Air proudly displays its recent Lennox Premier Dealer designations.

- Inspecting and cleaning the condensate drain
- Checking system controls
- Cleaning and adjusting blower components
- Checking the charge and load of the refrigerant in the system
- Cleaning evaporator and condenser coils

Preventative maintenance tasks for homeowners

While scheduling bi-annual

preventive maintenance services with a professional HVAC company can help a system operate efficiently for years, homeowners can also be proactive. Richard urged homeowners to keep the outside unit clean: "Remove all debris on and around the unit each time you do yard maintenance and hose it down if dirt begins to accumulate," he advised. To further keep the unit at peak performance and maintain proper air flow, homeowners should trim plants back two feet from

the unit.

Inside, homeowners will want to keep the AC/furnace unit clutter-free. “The more items sitting around a unit, the more dust that can collect and eventually make its way into the vent system,” Richard said. Items on a unit may also reduce air circulation and cause the AC to perform inconsistently.

Air filter guidance for best cooling action

One of the easiest and most important things a homeowner can do to maintain their HVAC system may be the most overlooked: Changing the air filter. “Your air filter should be changed twice a year,” Richard said. “I recommend checking it in between services, so that filter gets looked at four times a year.”

Air filters remove dust, pollutants and bacteria from the air, preventing them from spreading throughout the home. An HVAC system with a clogged or dirty filter must work harder to pull that air through the AC unit, which leads to stress on the system and increased utility bills.

“You get what you pay for when it comes to air filters for HVAC systems. The cheaper you go, the less effective the filter,” said Richard. He suggests a pleated, reinforced air filter that will not twist and thus not accidentally get sucked into the unit’s blower wheel, damaging the equipment.

Carbon-coated air filters have been developed to remove odors, pollen and other particles from the air, as well as the usual dust, dirt and



Northern Colorado Air, based in Fort Collins, services areas including Fort Collins, Longmont, Windsor and Loveland.

dander. These are ideal for people with allergies or health sensitivity. Richard recommends Merv-16 carbon-coated filters. “They don’t make anything higher than this,” he said. “There is 95-feet of material in a 20×25 filter that can trap dirt and other pollutants from the air. This is going to catch everything.”

Unlike other filters, Merv-16 carbon-coated filters typically need to be only changed annually. “It’s an investment you are making once a year so that you can breathe,” Richard said. As with any purchase, Northern Colorado Air specialists are happy to educate homeowners on their options and help them decide which filter will be most effective for their home.

Northern Colorado Air, Inc. prides itself in offering the absolute best heating system repair, air conditioner repair, furnace installation, air conditioner installation and HVAC services. For more information on commercial and residential services, contact Northern Colorado Air, Inc. at 970.223.8873 or visit ncagriff.com.



Northern Colorado Air’s expert HVAC technicians have an extensive knowledge of heating and air conditioning systems. The company only installs proven name-brand air conditioning systems, furnaces and heating systems, HVAC equipment and replacement parts.